

Application No. 10/789,156
Response to Final Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 22-42 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,199,081 ("Saito et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 22 (and corresponding method claim 40), a color image forming apparatus is provided which comprises an output unit to output one of a character area identification signal, a photographic area information signal, and a screened halftone information signal based on an output of the first identification unit for each identified area.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 23 (and corresponding method claim 41), moreover, a color image forming apparatus is provided which comprises an output unit to output one of a chromatic character area identification signal and an achromatic character area identification signal based on an output of the identification unit for each identified area.

And as recited in each of independent claims 22 and 23 (and corresponding method claims 40 and 41), the color image forming

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apparatus comprises a recording unit to form an image for each identified area to be a respective color based on the signal output by the output unit for each identified area.

That is, as explained in the Amendment filed on October 28, 2004, according to the claimed present invention, a document d which includes a photographic area 2, a screened halftone area 1, color characters 3 and black characters 4 (see Fig. 8) is read by a document reading unit. Each of the areas 1-4 is identified, and the result of the identification of each of the areas 1-4 is output with a corresponding color. For example, the screened halftone area 1 may be converted to a cyan area, the photographic area 2 may be converted to a colorless area, the color character area may be converted to a magenta area, and the black character area may be converted to a black area. Then an identification result chart (see Figs. 9A, 9B, 10A and 10B) is formed with areas having colors corresponding to the area identification.

With this structure, the identification result chart may be checked in the manufacturing process, for example, to confirm that the area identification system is working properly, and identification processing may be standardized among manufactured machines.

As recognized by the Examiner, Saito et al discloses a system for processing a form including a facial image, a

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signature image, and additional ID information. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Saito et al does not disclose, teach or suggest a recording unit to form an image for each identified area to be a respective color based on the signal output by the output unit for each identified area.

According to Saito et al, a system is provided for reading an application form 100 and issuing a certificate 200 (such as a driver's license). The application form is read with an image reader 104, which may read color image so as to be able to process color facial images. The application form 100 according to Saito et al includes marks 207 and/or marks 208 which identify the format of the application form, and marks 205 and 206 which enable the locations of frames in the application form to be detected.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Saito et al does not disclose outputting one of a character area identification signal, a photographic area information signal, and a screened halftone information signal for each identified area, as recited in independent claims 22 and 40, or outputting one of a chromatic character area identification signal and an achromatic character area identification signal for each identified area, as recited in independent claims 23 and 41.

By contrast, Saito et al discloses that an image signal is produced by scanning the application form 100 with the image

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reader 104. Then, according to Saito et al, the image signal is separated into separate image signals for each of the areas 201, 202 and 203. And it is respectfully submitted that the separated image signals according to Saito et al are image data of the contents of the areas 201, 202 and 203.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the separated image signals corresponding to areas 201-203 according to Saito et al are not identification signals in the manner of the claimed present invention, but rather simply correspond to the contents